

Relates to R-1 and 60-A 8

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND  
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DECEMBER 15, 2015

**EMERGENCY ACTIONS TO PROACTIVELY ADDRESS EXTREME WEATHER  
EVENTS (EL NIÑO) IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Meteorology and climatology experts are predicting that the County of Los Angeles (County) will soon face one of the most powerful El Niño events ever recorded, including heavy rainfall and multiple storms in close succession, which will likely result in mudslides, flooding and the displacement of residents.

The County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), located in the Chief Executive Office (CEO), has planning and coordination responsibilities relative to local emergencies. Many County departments also have department-specific plans and responsibilities for emergency situations.

In light of the extreme weather conditions expected to arise from El Niño, as well as the myriad potential resulting challenges, the County, under the leadership of the OEM and other County departments, has begun to undertake efforts to assess the sufficiency of the County's planning and preparation for this potentially catastrophic emergency.

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MOTION

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**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND  
DON KNABE  
DECEMBER 15, 2015  
PAGE 2**

In anticipation of El Niño, the County has made several immediate investments to remove its homeless residents from harm's way. Among other things, the County has:

- expanded its Winter Shelter Program;
- invested \$15M to rapidly house homeless families and individuals;
- launched a County/City/Community initiative to assist, treat and house homeless individuals on Skid Row; and
- planned to open 100 recuperative care beds at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Medical Center campus in January, 2016.

Many of these efforts are being led by the Department of Health Services' Housing for Health program. Since November 2012, Housing for Health has permanently housed 1,110 formerly homeless clients, and 1,500 more clients are in the pipeline to be housed by June, 2016. The \$10M recently invested to rapidly re-house homeless individuals is projected to serve another 525 homeless adults. These efforts are promising, but direly insufficient in light of the sheer number of homeless individuals currently living on the streets on the eve of El Niño. Housing for Health's existing network of intensive case management providers and a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool mechanism can rapidly scale up to increase the number served.

The County should further bolster these emergency preparation efforts as it continues its concurrent longer term strategic homeless planning efforts expected to culminate in February, 2016. The Board of Supervisors should also eliminate any bureaucratic hurdles that might slow its efforts to get homeless individuals off the streets before the severe El Niño weather hits. This is especially true, since additional efforts can be made without incurring additional net County cost.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND  
DON KNABE  
DECEMBER 15, 2015  
PAGE 3**

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS,** direct the Chief Executive Office's Office of Emergency Management to:

1. continue to convene the working group of relevant County departments, including Public Works, Health, Fire, Sheriff, Public Social Services, County Counsel, Human Resources and Internal Services, to coordinate and assess emergency planning efforts concerning the anticipated El Niño event;
2. review relevant mutual-aid and other inter-governmental agreements to assess their potential applicability to the anticipated impacts of El Niño;
3. assess the appropriateness and timing of requesting that the County proclaim a local emergency due to El Niño, and undertake advance planning for the making of such a proclamation, including consideration of requests to the state and federal governments for associated emergency proclamations;
4. evaluate Los Angeles County's work force needs relative to addressing El Niño conditions and the appropriate means to rapidly augment the work force, if necessary; and
5. report back to the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on January 5, 2016 on each of the subjects identified above and any other identified issues regarding emergency planning relative to El Niño.

**WE FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with County Counsel and the Department of Health Services, to take administrative actions to expedite the County's ability to promptly increase the rate at which homeless persons are moved off the streets into interim and permanent housing, including, but not limited to:

- a. temporarily increasing spending caps of master agreements and/or work orders;

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND  
DON KNABE  
DECEMBER 15, 2015  
PAGE 4**

- b. expressly allowing for direct execution of work orders with any entities that have qualified under a master agreement;
- c. consulting with the Director of the Department of Human Resources to promptly identify, transfer and/or hire appropriate personnel or contract for temporary personnel, to execute any requisite service expansions; and
- d. expansion of the Department of Health Services' Housing for Health program.

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